



COMDTINST M16000.14

AUG 25 1997

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION M16000.14

Subj: VOLUME IX - MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - MARINE SAFETY
MANUAL

1. PURPOSE. This instruction releases Volume IX of the Marine Safety Manual (MSM) for the information, use, and guidance of Coast Guard personnel involved in marine environmental protection duties. It presents the authorities and responsibilities, and consolidates policies and procedures for the Marine Environmental Protection Program.
2. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, and unit commanding officers shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this volume. In cases of apparent conflict between this volume and provisions of statutes or regulations, the latter provisions shall be applied and Commandant (G-M) shall be advised of the apparent conflict. In cases where there is an apparent conflict between the volume and current marine practice, Commandant (G-MOR) shall be contacted for further resolution of the matter. Appropriate action will be taken in such cases to correct conflicting provisions of this volume.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. The following directives are canceled: COMDTINST 16451.5A dated February 1, 1988; COMDTINST 16465.41 dated January 1, 1993; COMDTINST 16465.42 dated November 8, 1994, and COMDTINST 16465.47 dated October 8, 1993.

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4. DISCUSSION.

- a. The United States Coast Guard is committed to maritime safety and the preservation of our environment. The Coast Guard's forces for marine environmental protection are as complex as their mission is important. These forces are organized and brought to bear by the Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Directorate (G-M). Marine environmental protection is handled by several offices. They coordinate the Coast Guard's resources as well as our partnership with those international, federal, state, and local agencies dedicated to environmental protection.
- b. A comprehensive manual which provides guidance on the application of Coast Guard regulations, and explains the rationale behind their development and implementation, is vital to the successful execution of the Marine Environmental Protection Program. This volume serves that function by providing an overview of the various environmental protection related program areas or refers the reader to the appropriate source.
- c. The policies and directions in this volume and in subsequent additions and changes to this volume, whether mandatory or permissive are intended only for the internal use of the Coast Guard. Nothing herein is intended to create rights or expectations on the part of the other parties, or to establish any duty or standard of care owing to other parties on the part of the Coast Guard. The provisions of this volume may not cover individual situations which are best handled through experience and sound judgment. Hence, the policies and directions herein are intended to promote consistent and uniform execution of the Marine Environmental Protection Program, without undue restriction of independent judgment on the part of marine safety personnel.

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5. CHANGES. When necessary, this volume will be updated by consecutively numbered changes.
6. FORMS/REPORTS. There are no new Coast Guard forms or reports required by this volume.



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F:j Except Tampa.

ABS (9).

DOJ Torts Branch (Washington, DC; New York: San Francisco only) (1).

MARAD (MRG 4700) (1).

MSC (M-24) (1).

NOAA Fleet Inspector (1)

NTSB (Marine Accident Division) (2).

World Maritime University (2).

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY (1).